

alia, unable to pay its debts or because disqualified to carry on business. Further the Company Law Board, constituted under the Companies Act, has been empowered to adjudicate and pass orders in case of non-repayment of deposits/interest by the NBFCs.

[English]

Smuggling of Opium

1096. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced recently new opium policy;

(b) whether the decision to lower the minimum qualifying yield requirement for opium cultivators is expected to flood the market with opium;

(c) whether excess production is likely to be diverted to the black market; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government's Opium Policy for the crop year 1996-97 was announced on 4th October, 1996.

(b) The Minimum Qualifying Yield for opium licence was raised from 46 kgs. per hectare to 48 kgs. per hectare for the states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and it was fixed at 40 kgs. per hectare for Uttar Pradesh as the latter has a relatively lower average yield. The relaxation in the Minimum Qualifying Yield was only in respect of a small percentage of cultivators who could not achieve the above target but undertook to fulfil it during the current crop year.

The above decision to retain the traditional poppy cultivators is not likely to encourage diversion of opium into illicit channel since the cultivators would stand to lose their licences permanently in that event.

(c) No Sir, under the provisions of the N.D.P.S. Act/ Rules, 1985, cultivators are required to tender their entire opium produce to the Govt. Failure to do so invites severe punishment under the Act, besides the liability of the cultivator to lose opium licence permanently.

(d) To ensure that opium is not diverted into illicit channel, an elaborate system of control is exercised over poppy growing areas which includes 100% measurement of poppy fields, test measurement by senior officials, constant monitoring of crop conditions and daily weighment of produce of each cultivator during the period of opium cultivation. The enforcement set up of the Central Bureau of Narcotics has also been strengthened by improving transport and communication net-work and setting up preventive intelligence cells in and around poppy growing areas. Enforcement operations and general vigil are intensified during the lancing period and collection of opium. In addition to

departmental officers, other enforcement agencies and paramilitary forces are often engaged for the above purpose.

Illegal Assets of Jewellers

1097. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Illegal assets worth Rs. 10 crore seized from jewellers" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated October 16, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the quantity and value of illegal assets seized; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes sir. The Income-tax Department carried out searches at the premises of the following jewellers' group in October, 1996 :-

Name	Seizure (Rs. in lacs)
M/s. P.P. Jewellers	736.49
M/s. Sakun Chain Group	9.26
M/s. Rohtak Chains Company	2.90
Group of Cases	

(d) Necessary action as per provision of the Direct Tax Laws has been taken.

Spinning Mills

1098. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank funded spinning mills located at Peddor village in Sri Salla Division of Karimnagar District have become sick;

(b) if so, the reasons for their sickness; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to revive these mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Export to Agriculture

1099. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the share of the country in export of agricultural